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My wife, daughter I and have lived in Crescent West since February 2000. We loved the area, being the only London postcode surrounded by green belt, we had always thought that the legal protection of green belt would mean that we could continue to enjoy the green spaces, the local community, the low-density housing and most importantly the safe and healthy environment. Our daughter had ballet and tennis lessons with the Hadley Wood Association and we always enjoyed walking our dogs and ourselves in what has been I understand the highest air quality in London.

The only downsides were the very limited bus service, the unreliable trains, parking problems (often cars and vans block our drive) and the increasing noise from the restaurant/bar and the youngsters driving cars far too fast through the area. The trains have improved recently due to community action but the dangerous driving, very noisy bar customers making noise to midnight seven days a week and parking problems have worsened. It's been sad to see how rabid developers have been allowed to do away with so many of the larger properties on Camlet Way to replace them with unaffordable - and still mainly empty flats but so far, despite attempts to introduce some wholly inappropriate commercial activities such as the Barchester home, the nature of the area has so far been protected.

Never in life would I have believed that anyone would now attempt to overturn and ignore the green belt, to desecrate and rape the area of Hadley Wood with a near doubling of houses and residents onto a protected area of land surrounded by conservation areas.

The problems of noise, dangerous traffic and pollution of the area would increase dramatically. Parking would become a 24/7 nightmare. And how would the limited infrastructure cope? 700 - 800 new residents, where would they shop? Enjoy recreation? Have medical services? And with our minimal, laughable bus bus service they could only travel by car, so another 400-500 cars in the area? How many fatal accidents have been planned as the very heavy traffic burden would surely mean knocking over and injuring the many children and old folk that live here. Can the sewers cope? What about flooding risk? In a time of massive climate catastrophes hitting so many areas concreting over this large area of permeable land is surely acting in an unbelievably irresponsible manner. Who would anyone flooded out as a consequence sue I wonder? We already see the gutters regularly overflowing after even minor rainstorms, this action will cause flooding.

Speaking of children, destroying a legally protected area of green belt, destroying the flora and fauna that live there and increasing pollution, noise and danger right next to a playing field used by local sports clubs and schools is not only environmental vandalism but it's an appalling example to young people. How, if local Government is prepared to act illegally, wrecking a protected environment, do we expect our young people to act responsibly regarding the climate and resource crises that the world faces? Pandering to avaricious developers whose only interest is their next Bentley is an example of recklessness, environmental crime and simple illegality. The council has not outlined the necessary 'exceptional circumstances' required by law before green belt can be wantonly destroyed. There are brown field options and if for any reason that is not preferred then why not build on one of the too many golf courses within the area? Golf is enjoyed by a very small sector of the community whereas the benefit of green belt is enjoyed by everyone.

Taking a more strategic view why is there this madness to build more homes in London at all? Covid accelerated the damage caused by Brexit, that campaign of hatred and xenophobia, and the population of London has dropped by around 10%. With the economies of many Eastern block countries doing far better than the self-harming UK they won't be back. So who are these new

dwellings for? We know that the local developers and their associated agents love money above all else but even they might think twice if they realise that there may not be any buyers for these houses, especially when they realise how poorly served for transport and services they will be.

Let's talk about the massive disruption that such a massive build would cause to the residents of Crescent West and Camlet Way. We've only just finished 18 months of disruption from the new water pipe but this would be 10 times worse. Who will we be suing for the disruption and the long-term drop in value of our properties? Presumably a class action against the council and the developers will be the appropriate route.

Last and not least, that the Duchy of Lancaster should somehow have had their arm twisted to agree this act of desecration when HRH Prince Charles speaks so passionately on environmental matters is incomprehensible. What on earth has happened? Does Prince Charles know that this area is being scheduled for destruction in his name?

Please take your responsibilities seriously. Don't support the short-term greedy developers and don't go down in history as environmental criminals.

Many thanks